

# Minority Health Facts

## HISPANICS/LATINOS in Rhode Island

### INTRODUCTION

This report provides information about major health indicators for the Hispanic/Latino population living in Rhode Island. A *Hispanic/Latino* is defined by the Office of Management and Budget (Directive 15) as *a person of Mexican, Puerto-Rican, Cuban, Central or South American or other Spanish culture regardless of race*. This report presents data on socio-economic characteristics, morbidity and mortality, behavioral risks, infectious diseases, maternal and child health, and access to healthcare among Hispanic/Latino Rhode Islanders in comparison to the overall state population. Please note that race and ethnic status for some Health Department data sets are based on self-identification.



### POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS

According to the Census 2000 population data, there are 90,820 Hispanics living in Rhode Island (RI). About 8.7% of the total RI population is Hispanic/Latino. These estimates indicate that the Hispanic population is the largest and one of the most diverse minority populations in the state. Persons of Puerto Rican origin form the largest Hispanic population in Rhode Island, followed by Dominicans and Colombians. Nearly 98% of Hispanics live in urban areas, with the largest concentration of Hispanics living in Providence, Pawtucket and Central Falls. Approximately 39% of Hispanics in Rhode Island over the age of 5 speak a language other than English in the home (usually Spanish). The median age for the Hispanic/Latino population is 23.6 years whereas the overall state median age is 36.7 years. Nearly 90% of the Hispanic/Latino population is under the age of 50; 70% of the overall state population is under the age of 50.

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000

### SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

The following are socio-economic characteristics of Rhode Island's Hispanic population from the 2000 Census. These characteristics may affect the health of Hispanic Rhode Islanders.

- There are about *three times* as many Hispanics living below poverty level as the overall state population.
- The median household income for Hispanics is \$22,851—approximately \$19,000 less than the state median.
- A *lower* percent of Hispanics graduate from high school, and a *greater* percent of Hispanics are unemployed than the overall state population.

Table A: Socio-Economic Data

	HISPANIC	STATE
Percent of population living below poverty*	36.0	11.9
Percent of population that is unemployed*	6.9	3.6
Median household income*	\$22,851	\$42,090
High school graduation rate** (percent)	66.0	81.0

SOURCES: \*U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000. \*\*RI Kids Count Factbook, 2004.

## MORTALITY

- For the period between 1999-2002, the top two causes of death for the Hispanic population and the overall state were cancer and heart disease. *Homicide and unintentional injuries* were the third and fourth top causes of death in the Hispanic population. However, these causes of death are not ranked among the top five for the overall state population.

## BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTORS

- The Hispanic population participates *less* in physical activity than the overall state population.
- The percent of Hispanics that are overweight is *higher* than the overall state population.
- The percent of Hispanics who smoke cigarettes is *lower* than the overall state population.



**Table B: Leading Causes of Death, 1999-2002**

#	HISPANIC	STATE
1	Cancer	Heart Disease
2	Heart Disease	Cancer
3	Homicide	Stroke
4	Unintentional Injuries	Chronic Respiratory Diseases
5	Stroke	Pneumonia/Influenza

SOURCE: RI Dept. of Health, Division of Vital Records, RI Resident Deaths, ICD-10 Codes, 1999-2002.

**Table C: Indicators of Behavioral Risk Factors**

	HISPANIC	STATE
Percent of adult population <sup>1</sup> that participates in light to moderate physical activity for at least 30 minutes per day	24.1	36.9
Percent of adult population that is overweight <sup>2</sup> (20 yrs+)	62.6	56.9
Percent of adult population that is obese <sup>3</sup> (20 yrs+)	21.3	18.4
Percent of adult population that consumes at least five daily servings of fruits and vegetables per day	23.5	28.2
Percent of adult population that smokes cigarettes	16.7	23.0
Percent of adult population that consumed 5+ drinks on one or more occasions in past month (binge-drinking)	13.8	16.9

SOURCE: RI Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System 2000, Healthy People 2010 (2000-03 frequencies).

<sup>1</sup>Adult population refers to individuals 18 years and older unless otherwise specified.

<sup>2</sup>Overweight defined by CDC as BMI  $\geq 25$ .

<sup>3</sup>Obesity defined by CDC as BMI  $\geq 30$ .

**Table D: Incidence Rates of Infectious Diseases:  
Cases per 100,000 Population**

INFECTIOUS DISEASES	HISPANIC	STATE
Gonorrhea*	238.0	93.0
Chlamydia*	1108.0	286.0
Tuberculosis**	14.3	4.4
HIV/AIDS***	44.0	12.8

SOURCES: RI Dept. of Health, Office of Communicable Diseases,  
 \*Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) Surveillance Data 2003.  
 \*\*Tuberculosis Database 2003.  
 \*\*\*RI Epidemiologic Profile of HIV/AIDS 2002.

**Table E: Indicators of Maternal and Child Health**

	HISPANIC	STATE
Percent of pregnant women with delayed prenatal care*	12.9	9.1
Rate of births to teens ages 15-19 (per 1,000 teens)*	86.9	33.1
Percent of births to mothers with less than 12 years of education*	33.0	15.0
Percent of infants with low birth weight (<5.5 lbs)*	7.3	7.5
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)**	7.8	6.6
Percent of children in poverty (<18 yrs)***	47.0	17.0
Percent of children under age 6 with high lead levels ( $\geq 10 \mu\text{g/dL}$ )****	10.0	7.0

SOURCES: \*RI Dept. of Health, Division of Family Health, Maternal and Child Health Database.  
 \*\* Infant Mortality Database, 1998-2002.  
 \*\*\* U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000.  
 \*\*\*\* RI Dept. of Health, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention. Program based on highest lead test result during calendar year 2002.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

- The rate of gonorrhea is *two times* higher in the Hispanic population than in the overall state population.
- The rate of chlamydia in Rhode Island's Hispanic population is nearly *four times higher* than the overall state population.
- During 2003, the rate for tuberculosis cases was *three times higher* for Hispanics, and HIV/AIDS was *three and half times higher* for Hispanics than it was for the overall state population.

## MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

- The overall state population has better maternal and child health outcomes than the Hispanic population.
- *Fewer* Hispanics receive early prenatal care and *more than two and half times* as many Hispanics give birth as a teenager than the overall state teen population.
- *More than two times* as many Hispanic children grow up in poverty as the overall state population.



## ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

- A lower percent of Hispanics in RI report having health insurance, and a *lower* percent report having an on-going source of healthcare than the overall state population.
- Hispanics report *higher* screening rates for pap tests compared to the overall state population.
- A *higher* percent of Hispanics compared to the overall state population report being unable to afford to see a doctor.

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**Table F: Indicators of Access to Healthcare**

	HISPANIC	STATE
Percent of adults less than 65 years old that report having no health insurance*	19.8	9.5
Percent of adults that report a specific source of on-going healthcare*	76.3	84.4
Percent of population (all ages) stating usual source of care as none or emergency room**	4.0	5.1
Percent of women aged 40+ that report receiving a mammogram in the past 2 yrs*	91.0	91.3
Percent of women that reported having a pap test in the past 2 yrs*	94.2	87.8
Percent of adults that said "yes" when asked if there was a time they could not afford to see a doctor**	14.2	7.8

SOURCES: \*RI Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System 2000-03, Healthy People 2010 (2000-03 frequencies).

\*\*Health Interview Survey, 2001.

**For more information regarding minority health and the statistics contained in this report, please contact:**

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